

teen pregnancy. He has delivered approximately 10,000 babies. He is a respected doctor for over 30 years, a medical professor and former dean of a medical school. He is a community leader in Nashville—a member of the board of the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation and the force behind a teen pregnancy prevention program, "I Have a Future." "I Have a Future" was recognized by the Points of Light Foundation and former President Bush for its efforts in fighting teen pregnancy and fighting drugs.

I am very concerned about the toxic atmosphere which has accompanied recent nominations of distinguished professionals to high office in our Government. I am disturbed at the thought that Americans of great accomplishment will decline to serve, reluctant to undergo the invasive and debilitating nomination process.

Dr. Foster is the kind of distinguished public servant our Government needs. I am pleased that he is telling his own story, through this column and through the recent speech he delivered at George Washington University. I believe he must have the opportunity to tell his story in confirmation hearings. I am asking all of my colleagues to reserve judgment on Dr. Foster until he has the chance to tell his own story through the normal committee process.

I ask unanimous consent that Dr. Foster's column appear in the RECORD at the conclusion of these remarks, and I yield the floor.

There being no objection, the column was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

WHY I WANT TO BE SURGEON GENERAL  
(By Henry Foster)

Just a little over a week ago, few people outside Nashville knew anything about me. But after President Clinton announced his intention to nominate Dr. Henry Foster for surgeon general on Feb. 2, it seems like everybody thinks they know everything about me.

Two weeks ago, no one, not even my wife, St. Clair, my daughter, Myrna, and my son, Wendell—as devoted as they are—followed my every move and every word with rapt attention. Now, when I wake up in the morning and look out my window, the press is out there waiting and watching. When I go to my office, they follow me into the elevator. And walking down the street, I have been punched in the face, inadvertently, I think, with one of those huge microphones you see on TV. I have never seen anything like it.

I have even picked up a new lexicon. Words that matter in Washington are not in dictionaries in the rest of America. They certainly never taught me these words in medical school or the delivery room: Sound bites. Boom mikes. Stakeouts. Live shots. Talking heads. On-air analysis. All dissecting me over and over again. And all before I've uttered one word at my confirmation hearings before the Senate.

People who have never met me analyze my character and my life's work. They attack me personally before they ever give me a chance to introduce myself or tell my story. But those attacks do not define me. I know who I am and what I stand for. I also know that I am a symbol in a larger debate that has polarized this country for many years. But the attacks do hurt.

I cannot say that my work as a doctor entirely prepared me for these two turbulent weeks. But I have learned a few things during my 38 years as a doctor, a teacher and a crusader against teen pregnancy that have prepared me to be a good surgeon general.

I have been face to face with real life-and-death challenges. When you see low birth-weight babies born to mothers not yet old enough to drive a car, you have an appreciation of what trauma really means. When you visit the homes of families living in grinding poverty and feel the palpable sense of hopelessness in their lives, you begin to understand what it is to be up against the odds. Compared to that, shouted questions and overheated rhetoric may be uncivil, but I can handle them. When people ask me why I want to be surgeon general, I know the answer.

When you've had the good fortune to participate in the miracle of birth as many times as I have, it is difficult to stand on the sidelines and watch so many people wasting the precious gift of life.

It is difficult to look around America today and see so much needless suffering. Too many children suffer, because their parents have not been taught the value of prevention. Too many people don't have access to quality health care. And too many of us have turned away from those basic American values that can prevent violence or abuse of any kind from taking root.

But all is not lost. America is moving forward to confront both our health care crisis and the crisis of values that has led to far too much irresponsible behavior. As your surgeon general, I believe I can turn the small ripples of success that we have produced into great waves of progress. I believe that I can draw attention and help develop lasting solutions to the tragic public health problems confronting us—from the epidemic of violence to the spread of AIDS to the terrible problem of substance abuse. But I will be giving my greatest attention to what the president has called "our most serious social problem," the epidemic of teen pregnancy in this country.

It's ironic that my work fighting teen pregnancy has been overshadowed by my opponents' talk about abortion. I do believe in the right of a woman to choose. And I also support the president's belief that abortions should be safe, legal and rare. But my life's work has been dedicated to making sure that young people don't have to face the choice of having abortions.

I have some ideas about how young people can avoid that difficult choice. We are reducing teen pregnancy in the Nashville housing projects through "I Have a Future"—a program we started at Meharry Medical College back in 1987. Our approach is to expand adolescent health care programs beyond the schools and bring them to the Community, where they can become a part of the fabric of everyday life. Encouraging abstinence and involving the entire community, we have begun to replace a culture of hopelessness with one that gives young people clear pathways to healthy futures.

In my work with young people in Nashville, there is one lesson I stress above all others. To break the cycle of despair, you must learn that there is a reward for sacrifice. And earning that reward has a fringe benefit. It allows you to give something back. That is a hard lesson to learn, but it is one that has kept me going through these difficult weeks. Having President Clinton place his faith in me is something I could never have imagined as a young boy growing up in the segregated South. Now, I want to give something back to a country that has rewarded my work and sacrifice, and God willing, I'll have that opportunity.

## RIGHT TO LIFE OF MICHIGAN

Mr. ABRAHAM. I would like to commend the marchers who came to Washington from all over the country to join in the March for Life here on January 23, 1995, the anniversary of Roe versus Wade.

At the time of the march I was pleased to have the opportunity to meet with the pro-life delegation from my home State of Michigan. In my State, the right-to-life organization has long pursued legal channels in attempting to restore the civil rights of the unborn and in helping women with problem pregnancies.

Unfortunately, the peaceful and legal efforts of organizations such as Right to Life of Michigan have been obscured by the actions of those who have resorted to violence as a means of expressing their opposition to abortion. In response to these senseless acts of violence, the Michigan right to life organization has launched a series of television commercials calling for an end of all violence at abortion clinics. I rise today to commend Right to Life of Michigan for their leadership on an important issue of the day. I also applaud them for their constructive project as they pursue our common goal of advancing the cause of the pro-life movement, and I further join them in condemning those who would resort to any form of such violence in an attempt to advance their objectives.

## REMARKS OF WILLIAM S. COHEN, WEHRKUNDE CONFERENCE, MUNICH, GERMANY

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, on the weekend of February 4, the annual Wehrkunde Conference was held in Munich, Germany. This conference is a gathering of government representatives from NATO countries and leading experts on alliance security. Not surprisingly, one of the main topics of discussion was the situation in Bosnia and NATO's role in that conflict.

This year, the Senate delegation to the Wehrkunde Conference was led by the distinguished Senator from Maine, BILL COHEN. In his remarks to the Wehrkunde delegates, Senator COHEN underscored the serious weaknesses of the U.N. protection forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the erosion of NATO's military credibility as a result of the dual-key arrangement between the United Nations and NATO. His bottom line is that if we are unable to provide the U.N. forces with the necessary authority and firepower, these forces should be withdrawn.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator COHEN's insightful remarks to the conference be included in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the remarks were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows: